

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01980 170402Z

20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 PM-07

NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 NSCE-00 /192 W

----- 011831

R 161100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USUN NEW YORK 361

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1980

REF: A) COLOMBO 1605 (NOTAL); B) KATHMANDU 2667 (NOTAL)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, KN, KS

SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION VISITS SRI LANKA;
SOUTH KOREANS CANCEL VISIT

1. SUMMARY: NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION IS
CURRENTLY SPENDING TWO WEEKS IN SRI LANKA.
ALTHOUGH VISIT APPROVED ONLY ON CONDITION THAT
DPRK GROUP LIMIT ITSELF TO TRADE TALKS,
REPORTEDLY IT HAS BEEN REBUFFED ON REQUEST TO CALL
ON PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. SIMILARLY,
EARLIER SOUTH KOREAN REQUEST THAT TRAVELING
ROK PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY BE RECEIVED BY PRIME
MINISTER WAS NOT ANSWERED AND REQUEST HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COLOMB 01980 170402Z

NOW BEEN WITHDRAW. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ARRIVAL IN COLOMBO
JULY 9 OF FOUR-MAN NORTH KOREAN TRADE
DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER
SOK JIM KIM. ACCORDING TO GSL-CONTROLLED
DAILY NEWS, GROUP WILL REMAIN IN SRI LANKA
FOR TWO WEEKS OF TALKS WITH GSL MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE.

3. WHEN REQUEST FOR VISIT WAS FIRST BROACHED
IN EARLY JUNE, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE
REPORTEDLY AGREED TO IT WITH PROVISIO THAT
DELEGATION WAS TO CONFINE TALKS STRICTLY TO
TRADE MATTERS AND WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED EITHER
BY HER OR BY RANKING MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) OFFICIALS. HER DECISION
APPARENTLY WAS MADE ONLY DAYS AFTER GSL FIRMLY
TURNED DOWN ATTEMPT BY DPRK GROUP TRANSITING
SRI LANKA IN MAY TO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF RE-
OPENING EMBASSY WHICH WAS CLOSED IN MAY 1971
(REF A).

4. LOCAL JOURNALIST HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT
SOK'S DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED NORTH KOREAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMBER, ASKED TO MAKE COURTESY
CALL ON PRIME MINISTER. SHE REPORTEDLY REFUSED
ANY SUCH CALL UNTIL DPRK DEBT INCURRED UNDER
BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WAS SETTLED. HIGHEST
REPORTED CONTACT OF NORTH KOREANS SO FAR HAS
BEEN JULY 12 MEETING WITH TRADE MINISTER
T.B. ILANGARATNE.

5. GSL DISPLAYED SIMILAR RETICENCE TOWARD
PROPOSED VISIT TO COLOMBO BY SOUTH KOREAN
PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY CHA CHI-CHOL (REF B).
ROK TRADE REP DR CHO TOLD
EMBASSY THAT REQUEST FOR CHA TO BE RECEIVED
BY GSL AND TO CALL ON PRIME MINISTER
BANDARANAIKE WAS WITHDRAWN AFTER VAIN WAIT OF
OVER MONTH FOR GSL'S REPLY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COLOMB 01980 170402Z

6. COMMENT: WHILE NORTH KOREANS ARE STILL
HELD AT ARMS LENGTH IT APPEARS THAT THEIR
CONTINUING PRESSURE MAY BE PUSHING GSL INTO
DEFINING TERMS ON WHICH OFFICIAL TIES WILL BE
RE-ESTABLISHED. IF ACCURATE, PRIME MINISTERS
REPORTED INSISTENCE ON DEBT SETTLEMENT MAY BE
ONE DIMENSION OF TRUE POLICY ON THIS ISSUE.

FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT
MRS BANDARANAIKE WILL STICK TO DECISION TO
HOLD OFF REOPENING NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY AT
LEAST UNTIL AFTER INSURGENTS TRIALS ARE
COMPLETED, POSSIBLY BY END OF YEAR
VAN HOLLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS, FOREIGN TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB01980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740191-0313
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740746/aaaabnho.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) COLOMBO 1605 (NOTAL); B) KATHMAND, U 2667 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: N KOREANS TRADE DELEGATION VISITS SRI LANKA: S KOREAN CANCEL VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, CE, (SOC JIM KIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005